depending upon its technical efficiency, condition of plant and machinery, etc. However, the selling price of various grades of molasses produced by vacuum pan sugar factories, effective from 23rd November, 1992, are as follows :—

Grade of Molasses	Prices
Grade I	Rs 14.40 per hundred kilograms
Grade II	Rs 11.50 per hundred kilograms
Grade II	Rs 8.60 per hundred kilograms
Below Grade III . . .	Rs 8.60 for every forty kilograms reducing sugar content

There is no fixed price for bagasse. Tha surplus bagasse available with the factories is disposed of by the factories themselves.

Output of Sugar

1857. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether sugar exports have increased substantially during the first nine months of this year as compared to that during the corresponding period of "1990-1991";

(b) the target fixed for sugar exports for 1992 and how far the target is likely to be exceeded; and

(c) the percentage increase in output of sugar compared to that in the preceding year and how far the increase in exports reflects the increase in production ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) (a) Yes, Sir.

'(b) No target for export of sugar for the year 1992 was fixed as such. However, a uantity of 5.60 lakh tonnes of sugar has been exported during 1991-92 sugar season (October to September). This excludes export of levy sugar to Nepal.

(c) As per provisional figures, the sugar production in 1991-92 sugar season has increased by 10.21% over 1990-91 season's production. The export during 1991-92 season has increased by 195% over 1990-91 season's export.

Production of Sugar

1858. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) what was the production of sugar in 1991-92 in (a) Private Sector (b) cooperative sector and (c) State Sector; and

(b) what is the export of sugar to important countries in terms of quantity and value thereof, during the last three years, country-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) Sector-wise production of sugar during 1991-92 season was as follows :—

Sector	*Production (Provisiondl) In lakh tonnes*
Private	44.59
Co-operative	76.83
State	11.35
	Total : 132.77

(b) The countries to which sugar was exported during the last three financial years, i.e. 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92, and the foreign exchange earned thereof are given in the attached statement.

Statement

Sl. No.	Country	1989-90		1990-91		1991-92	
		Qty. (M/T.)	F/Exch. (Rs. crores)	Qty. (M/T.)	F/Exch. (Rs. crores)	Qty. M/T.)	F/Exch. (Rs crores)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Holland . .	10,000	8.82	—	—	—	—
2.	USA . . .	7,843	6.16	12176	9.74	15208	13.00
3.	Belgium . .	—	—	20000	23.02	10000	12.98
4.	Srilanka . .	—	—	12500	7.39	136650	97.29
5.	Jordan . .	—	—	—	—	102800	74.78
6.	Indonesia . .	—	—	—	—	96329	60.53
7.	Libya . . .	—	—	—	—	40750	30.00
8.	Yemen . .	—	—	—	—	36800	26.83
9.	Egypt . .	—	—	—	—	31600	23.46
10.	Turkey . .	—	—	—	—	13000	10.00
11.	Maldives . .	—	—	330	0.25	—	—

Note: The above statement does not include levy sugar exported to Nepal.

Procurement of Foodgrains

1859. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that procurement of foodgrains during the period April-August, 1992 was 17.7 per cent lower than the corresponding period last year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Goverment are contemplating to correct the situation.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) *Yes,* Sir.

(b) The main reasons for less procure ment of wheat were higher open market prices of wheat, less mandi arrivals in main wheat producing States, larger purchases by traders and possible holding back of stocks by farmers in anticipation of better prices later during the year etc.

As regards rice, the reasons for lower procurement are larger purchases of paddy by traders in Punjab and Haryana, lower production of paddy in Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh due to unfavourable weather conditions and extension of area under cultivation of basmati paddy which is not procured.

(c) In the case of wheat, purchase under price support operations being voluntary, the Government takes all steps like giving a remunerative price to the farmer, opening a large number of purchase centres, prompt payment etc., to ensure a good procurement.

In the case of paddy, for the current kharif marketing season of 1992-93, the MSP of paddy has been increased by Rs. 40/- per quintal as compared to the previous year. Besides this, all other steps to increase procurement of paddy/rice have been taken, e.g. getting full support and participation of the State Governments/ Union Territories, and requesting them to ensure strict enforcement of levy orders for collection of levy rice from the rice millers/dealers during the current kharif marketing season.

Stock of Foodgrains

1860. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the total stock of foodgrains with Government agencies as on 31st August, 1992 was substantially lower than on the corresponding period of last year;

(b) what are the comparative figures of wheat, rice and other stocks on 31st August, 1991 and 31st August, 1992; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to ensure that the buffer stocks of foodgrains is maintained at a reasonable level ?